SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURIST

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SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURIST
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BURLINGTON ROAD IN TREE PLANTING WORK

Deadwood Daily Pioneer-Times

Forty thousand trees have been planted this spring along the Burlington right of way. These plantings have been made for the most part in western Nebraska, eastern Colorado and in Wyoming. The varieties of trees planted have been demonstrated as especially well adapted to the prevailing climatic conditions of these localities through experiments at state and federal experiment stations located in these communities.

The success of these tree plantings will make it possible for the railroad to beautify the right of way and add to the attractiveness of the view which the traveler receives of the country through which he passes. This is in line with the movement among citizens to increase the number of trees in each locality. The plantings, however, will serve a dual purpose for in addition to beautifying the landscape they are designed to provide natural hedges for the protection of the right of way from drifting snow. The trees have been planted under the direction of the federal and state forestry officials in cooperation with the agricultural and operating departments of the Burlington.

Seven thousand trees were planted at nine points on this railroad last year in an initial experiment of this type which proved so successful that the larger project was undertaken this season. The results secured with trees particularly well adapted to these regions have served a community demonstration in many localities, some with limited rainfall. Many owners of nearby land have been thus encouraged to undertake more extensive tree plantings for their own this year. It is estimated that over three-quarter of a million trees are being planted in Nebraska this year.

GARDEN CLUB CONTEST

One of our enthusiastic Society members offers the following prizes to the person organizing the largest garden clubs:

First Prize—One King of England, Peony.

Second Prize—One Madame Emile Galle, Peony.

The contest ends September 1, 1929. The Peonies will be sent to the winners at the proper planting time. The person organizing the Garden Club with the largest membership will win the first prize. The one organizing the Garden Club with the second largest membership will win the second prize. These peonies are rare varieties and will be a prizable prize for the winner.

PRIZES FOR FLOWER SHOW

Several nursery companies have offered some of their choicest stock to be used for prizes at flower shows. A show will be the means of arousing a lot of interest and getting some desirable plants and shrubs. An inquiry sent to the librarian will bring the particulars.

THE PEONY

Mrs. M. W. Sheafe, Watertown, S. D.

Who does not love the peony? A flower not to be excelled by any other for ease of cultivation, beauty of form and color. From "Peonies In the Little Garden," Mrs. Edward Harding says, "No garden can really be too small to hold a peony. Had I but four square feet of ground at my disposal, I would plant a peony in the center and proceed to worship."

From the very great progress made in the development of this fine flower, it would seem there are many other persons of the same mind as Mrs. Harding. We here, in this northwest country, are especially favored, climatically, as well as with good soil conditions, for the growing of the finest peonies to be seen anywhere.

The American Peony Society, through the efforts of a committee chosen by that body, has divided the United States and Canada into twelve Regional Districts, the object being to give each district an opportunity to participate in the entertainment of the annual exhibition.

South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and North Dakota constitute the north border region, district number six. We are in line for the honor in the near future of entertaining this fine organization exhibit. In order to do so successfully we should begin preparations at once to earn the honor by concertedly going to work to grow more and better peonies. Let us not be outdone by any locality at least without some effort, for what man has done man can do and "where there's a will there's a way." Let us all make a firm resolution to do our best and at blooming time this year visit the peony shows when possible and gardens of friends and neighbors, make selections of varieties, order them and plant them in September. Nothing really worthwhile is accomplished without effort and the writer is very sure there is not a more satisfactory flower or one needing less care than the peony. Price need not bar us, as some of the highest rated and oldest varieties are very inexpensive, and always winners at the shows. A fine opportunity is offered in this magazine to win very choice varieties by entering the Garden Club Contest. This year the annual show is to be held in Washington, D. C., in early June. Great preparations are being made and from all indications will be the finest show yet held.

To settle the question of correct name of the favorite dark red peony "Karl Rosenfield," we find this explanation given in the "Peony Manual" published in 1928, the highest authority we have to date on all matter pertaining to this wonderful flower: Peony Karl Rosenfield was introduced, named and rated 8.8 in 1908. The introducer, Mr. Karl Rosenfield, in 1925 changed his name to Rosefield, but the peony name remains the same as when introduced, so you may with perfect assurance say "Karl Rosenfield" when mentioning your favorite dark red. The manual published by the American Peony Society should be in every public library and in the library of every peony student, as it is a most complete treatise on this flower.

From the National Garden Association survey we find the middle west leads in floricultural activities. During the past year 953 flower shows have been held over the United States. Five only of these were held in South Dakota, North Dakota 17, Minnesota 29, Iowa 73. You see we must awaken to our needs lest we be left by the wayside. Let us try to have more shows this year.

BROOKINGS GARDEN CLUB

Purley L. Keene, Brookings, S. D.

A few lovers of garden flowers residing in Brookings got together two years ago and organized what we term the Brookings Garden Club, following the lead of Sioux Falls, Watertown and other South Dakota cities. The main reason, apparently, for organizing this club was to hold flower shows similar to those held by garden clubs in neighboring cities. Other objects of the club are the encouragement of amateur gardening, the growing of annual and perennial flowers and the planting of more ornamental shrubs and trees about our home grounds. Some benefit is derived from the exchange of seeds and plants among members and through mutual helpfulness in the discussion of gardening problems and in visiting the gardens of the members.

The club meets regularly once a month, except during the winter months, and oftener during the summer months at the discretion of the executive committee. The spring meetings have been taken up by papers and discussions on seedage, transplanting and landscape problems, while the summer meetings are usually devoted to early evening sessions at the gardens of different members. The fall meetings have been devoted to timely matters, such as the division and planting of herbaceous perennial flowers, putting the garden to bed for the winter and a review of the past season's experiences by the various club members.

In organizing and drafting our constitution and by-laws and also in our programs, we received considerable assistance from the National Garden Association, from the magazines, "Better Homes and Gardens," published at Des Moines, Iowa; "The Woman's Home Companion," and the "American Home," published by Doubleday, Doran and Company, New York. The Sioux Falls Garden Club also gave us help at this time.

The club, through its flower show committee, has been very successful with its show both of the past two years. This feature of our club is undoubtedly the most valuable to the community since it is stimulating interest in garden flowers outside of the organization itself. The show was held both years in the latter part of August, making it a fall flower show. This year the club is contemplating holding two shows, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Another phase of garden club activities is that of holding garden contests. In many clubs these have been very successful. Our club is planning on holding one this year. In this contest the entries are made in the spring and the gardens are judged twice, once in the spring and once in the fall. The contest, similar to the flower show, is open to everyone and not just to the members.

The dues of the club are nominal, the object being to encourage membership and to make it possible for everyone interested in garden flowers to join the club, no matter how large or small his garden may be. An atmosphere of democracy prevails in the meetings.

The officers of the club consist of a president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, librarian and two executive committeemen who unite with the officers of the club in forming its executive committee, which handles, quite largely, the business of the club so that the meetings may be devoted to profitable garden subjects rather than business.

The garden club movement in South Dakota, as well as in the entire United States, is comparatively new and one which is bound, due to its nature, to grow. In some states the garden clubs of the various cities have federated. This federation, together with the National Garden Club,

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EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A TRAVELING MAN

W. A. Simmons, Sioux Falls, S. D.

The Black Hills were discovered by President Calvin Coolidge in 1927 and since then an increasing number of tourists are visiting this lovely region each year and being delighted with its scenery. There is something about the Black Hills that constantly draws one back to them, and when one sees them once one is never satisfied until he sees them again. The mountains are not of the stern and fearsome sort that one sees in the higher Rockies but are beautiful, tree clad, chummy little mountains that one can take to one's heart and love.

Coming into the Hills from U. S. Highway No. 18, one comes first to beautiful Hot Springs, built in a gulch several miles long and chiefly from the cream colored stone that underlies the wooded hillsides.

The little stream that courses down the gulch is fed from the springs from which the town was named and never freezes, but supplies sufficient warmth to allow green cress to grow along its edges during all the winter. Here our state and nation each maintain soldiers' homes on opposite hills and these vie with each other to excel in beauty, and many old or disabled veterans spend their declining years here in peace and comfort as is their due.

Toward the east the gulch widens out somewhat, furnishing room for many thriving little orchards among which that of Mr. Ben Mosier is especially well kept and promising.

During the troublous days of deflation, the Bank of Hot Springs stood like the rock of Gibraltar when many others were failing, thus attesting the sound banking policy so ably carried on by Mr. G. C. Smith, its able and devoted cashier and long a member of our society. No matter how busy he may be, he always finds time for a chat with the visiting horticulturist and very interesting his talk always is as Mr. Smith has a very large body of experience to draw from. He tells of removing some soil from a spot in the northern hills and of the interesting lot of plant specimens that came up in that soil from the seeds concealed therein, including numerous spruce, trailing junipers, etc., which now grace the Smith grounds. He has many interesting specimens of cactus growing in pots in the bank, including one extremely thorny specimen that finally developed into a veritable tree, pushing its way quite to the ceiling. As a joke he placed in sign on it which read, "Please do not climb the cactus." This was grinned at by many, but one day a lady, evidently sadly lacking in a sense of humor, said to him, "Do you think anyone is going to try to climb your old cactus?"

Hot Springs is distinctly a friendly town; one notices it in the cordial greetings of the gallant captain of Spanish war days who presides so efficiently at the hotel, and one notices it in the newspaper offices where the able and always helpful editor has his sanctum.

It perhaps is not generally known that the idea of entertaining President Coolidge in the Black Hills on his summer vacation, like many other fine constructive ideas, was first hatched in the mind of this same brilliant editor.

Of course when a horticulturist thinks of Hot Springs, he thinks almost solely of our wonderful Vice President, Mr. John S. Robertson.

There is no way of estimating the amount of good Mr. Robertson has done to the cause of fruit raising in South Dakota, both by his fine example and by his unselfish willingness to help all beginners. The great Dakota Farmer early recognized his talents and claimed him for their own, and for many years he has officiated as their horticultural

editor and has turned out a mass of most interesting and helpful articles in their columns. A man of character plus the most honest man I have ever met both in matters of finance and intellectually. He has been very appropriately given a place in the state's who's who as one of the state's truly great men.

Starting under the most discouraging circumstances, he built up an orchard that is one of the show places of the state and worth going many miles to see. Unfortunately and to the dishonor of Fall River County, Mr. Robertson still has to struggle over a heart breaking road in getting to and from town. The last three miles of this road consists mostly of rocks and gates, though not so many of the latter as in former years. Neighbors living between his place and town each formerly maintained two gates though owning not a head of stock to give an excuse for them. On my first trip to his place I lost count of the gates after opening and closing near a dozen of them. But one year a gang of woodsmen engaged in getting out ties in his neighborhood, became tired of opening and closing gates and so one evening they tied a few ties on in front of their truck for bumpers and proceeded down the road, opening the gates very thoroughly and effectively.

Only a few of the more persistent neighbors restored the gates so opened, so now the number is reduced to about three or four.

It is to be hoped that the county commissioners will soon open a road to his place, for the present conditions are a disgrace and should not be allowed to continue. Probably Mr. Robertson could not tell you offhand how many varieties of apples are fruiting on his place, and I would not hazard a guess, but his place is a veritable testing plant for about all varieties, old or new. This is a part of his work that returns dividends only to the scientific spirit within him.

He considers the Wealthy as being his most profitable apple. Raised at his altitude of about four thousand feet, it is really a winter apple. On one of my visits to him, on May 15, he repaired to his storage cellar and brought forth for me Wealthy apples in a perfect state of preservation and they fairly melted in one's mouth. However, since the town has become acquainted with his cider, his apples no longer have a chance of keeping that long.

Here his numerous varieties are an advantage. He blends the various flavors in his cider as a coffee blender blends his coffees, making a healthful and, above all, an absolutely clean beverage fit for the gods. Mr. Robertson has no wormy apples and no rots ever find their way into his cider mill. Nothing goes in but clean, healthy fruit.

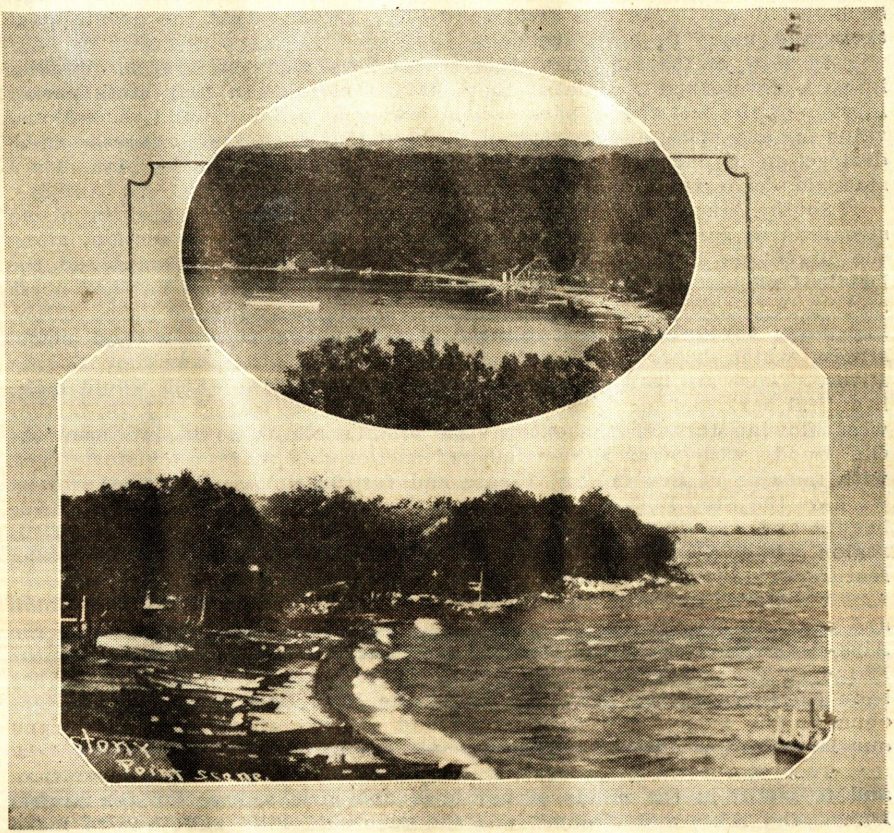
Mr. Robertson practices orderly marketing and makes no effort to market his fruit during the annual fall glut when the market is overstocked with poorly grown specimens from many small orchards. But as soon as this flood is worked off he starts his regular schedule of three trips to town a week with his apples and cider and finds a ready market for both.

His main problem is that of moisture, but he spaces his trees widely apart and conserves his moisture by allowing no grass or weeds to compete with the trees. Hail has been known to destroy his crop but except for that he raises a crop every year. I am often asked if others could do the things Mr. Robertson has done and attain equal success. My reply has always been yes, if you are a John Robertson and are prepared to put the work into it that he does. He stands alone at present, and it was fitting that our State College honored itself by selecting him as one of our master farmers and hanging his portrait in the college hall of fame.

STATE PARKS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

E. J. Waltner, Hurley, S. D.

State parks and state forests to which some degree of recreational as well as economic use may be given, are now considered a public necessity in about seven-eighths of the states of the Union. It is only during the last ten years, however, that state parks have been developed on an intensive scale. For the first two hundred years of our history, we find only very little concern for parks outside of a few small areas in cities. Shortly after the Civil War we find beginnings of thought for conservation of outstanding scenic treasures, which resulted in the establishment of our first state park.



If the Value of a Vacation Could Be Estimated in Dollars and Cents Our Lakes Would Be Worth Millions.

Twenty years ago, states possessing their own parks numbered less than a dozen. Ten years ago, they numbered less than twenty. There are more than five hundred state parks and forests throughout the United States with a total area of over four million acres. They are now within easy access of three-fourths of the population. It is possible on summer

transcontinental motor trips, on several of the famous highways, to find a state park for a night's rest and recreation from New England to the Rockies. Soon such preserves will be found at convenient intervals from ocean to ocean and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. These tracts should embrace the state's most magnificent and "unimproved" scenery and should, wherever practicable, include mountains, plains, valleys, forests, lakes and streams. The methods of acquiring areas of this character differ in various states. Each state of course presents its own peculiar problem and no rigid rule can be advocated.

The reasons for creating state parks might be summed up in the following: (1) To preserve the natural scenery for aesthetic and economic purposes; (2) To provide places for rest and recreation; (3) To preserve the places of historic interest. Any one of these by itself is justification for the establishment of a state park, but all the reasons can, of course, be boiled down to the one great controlling reason—that the people want them and mean to have them.

In view of the fact that other states have made such great progress in park development, some of them having more than fifty state parks; in view of the fact that a park system has great economic and recreational value for any state, and in view of the fact that each year witnesses much destruction of our beauty spots, it is none too early to make plans for a statewide program in South Dakota.

South Dakota is rich in historic sites, in beautiful lakes, in placid streams and scenic and recreational areas. In the eastern section, along the Big Sioux River, we have the Falls, we have the Palisades and the Devil's Gulch at Garretson, and the Dells at Dell Rapids. Farther north and up to the northeastern parts we have some fine romantic likes. Flowing down through the east central part we have the calm and placid stream which bears the name of our own state, the James or Dakota River. There are many wooded sites along this stream which would make beautiful park and picnic sites in this section of the state. A little farther west, flowing through the entire state from north to south, we have the Old Muddy with many a fine timbered section and many an historic spot, with remains of Ree Indian villages and fortifications. Still farther west we have the Slim Buttes region and the Bad Lands region, places of scenic beauty and grandeur, and in the extreme west we have the Black Hills region which is one continuous succession of scenery and the crowning feature of our park system.

We have in South Dakota scenery equal to anything in the Union and equal to the scenery of foreign countries. Our hills are equal to the Alps of Switzerland. Our streams are equal to the River Shannon, the Rhine or the beautiful Blue Danube. The James or Dakota River has been compared to the River Jordan of the Holy Land. Our prairies are equal to the moores and fens of Scotland and the steppes of Russia, and our lakes and wooded islands are as fair as Killarney.

To preserve these for posterity is the duty of the present generation, and to instill in the minds of our boys and girls a love for the prairie homes, the lakes and streams, and the pine clad hills and thus to make better and more loyal citizens is a duty which the state owes to its citizens.

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is bound to stimulate further the garden club movement and to make America a gardening nation, beautifying its homes and its home grounds, parks, cemeteries, country estates and farmsteads. The Brookings Garden Club wishes success to every other garden club in the state and urges those cities which have not as yet organized to do so, assuring them that their efforts will be well repaid.

EVERGREEN TREES FOR SHELTER AND ORNAMENTS

H. N. Dybvig, Colton, S. D.

For shelter belt varieties I would say there are only two real dependable varieties—possibly three—for the Dakotas that are entirely hardy and acclimated to our conditions, namely, Black Hills spruce and Black Hills pine—Pinus Ponderosa.

I mention the Black Hills spruce first as they assuredly stand at the top of the list for shelter belts as well as ornamental planting. The Black Hills spruce are adapted to all sections of the United States, especially the eastern parts and eastern nurserymen are just waking up to the fact that the Black Hills spruce is not only a distinct variety but a very much superior variety to nearly all the spruces that are grown in the United States.

If you will examine a block of Black Hills spruce carefully you will find there are many blue specimens amongst them and although they are not quite as bright a color as the Colorado Blue spruce, they have a tendency to grow more perfect shaped specimens and for this reason I believe they will be a very close competitor to the Colorado Blue spruce, even for ornamental plantings, as these may be easily transplanted and handled as they have a root system that is just as distinctive as their tops, especially where they are grown under prairie conditions.

The smaller sized trees can be handled very successfully without ball and burlap if reasonable care is given in digging and packing.

Now, the other variety for shelter belt planting, namely, the Black Hills pine, Pinus Ponderosa, is nearly as distinctive a type as the Black Hills spruce, although they will never be as popular, we do not believe, on account of their peculiarity in habit of growing, especially of the root system.

You will find a lot of nursery catalogs which list Black Hills pine as a very difficult tree to transplant and unless one is intimately acquainted with it, I will say it is difficult to transplant. If they have been properly grown in the nursery and dug and packed right, we find these nearly as easily transplanted as the Black Hills spruce, although they must be grown entirely different and must also be dug more carefully than the Black Hills spruce in order to have them grow and do well when transplanted.

Pines will stand considerably more drought than the spruce, especially the first couple of years after being transplanted, and of course, they will stand more drought when established also, as they have an entirely different root system. In their natural habitat we find them on top of the mountains where it seems as though they never get any moisture whatever, but still they grow and do well.

If only these two varieties had been sold and planted for windbreak purposes in South Dakota, I wonder how many more real windbreaks there would have been in our state today.

I have seen on several occasions big plantations of evergreens. In fact, Norway spruce have been planted on our prairies here for windbreak purposes and on several occasions I have seen Norway spruce that have grown several years and the planters really thought they had a real windbreak started, only to find the following spring, nearly every one, if not every one of their Norway spruce were dead.

I believe that planting varieties not adapted to our conditions have been more detrimental to our evergreen plantings in our state than all other causes combined.

For ornamental plantings, of course, the Black Hills spruce and

Black Hills pine come in for their share of attention, as has already been mentioned, although we have several other varieties of native evergreens which are very well adapted for ornamental plantings which I would not recommend for windbreak plantations.

First, I will mention the red cedar which is hardy enough for general windbreak planting, but owing to the fungus which causes rust on apples, these have not been advocated as a desirable tree for windbreak purposes.

However, I noticed a cemetery last summer which was planted almost exclusively to Red Cedars. They were all sheared in different specimens and it really made a very beautiful sight, especially in a country where other trees are hard to make grow, although I would not advocate only red cedars in any plantation, but for sheared specimens they have their place in the landscape.

We have another—silver cedar—cedar which we find growing wild in the Black Hills, in the Bad Lands and even find them out on the prairies on top of the bluffs along the Cheyenne River. These are also coming to their own now, as you will find some very beautiful colored specimens amongst them, although they are not all as well colored as some of the best ones are. As these stand shearing also, I am of the opinion that they will be much more largely planted from now on than they have been in the past.

We also find a dwarf juniper growing wild in the Black Hills. I am not certain of its botanical name, but believe it is Juniper Communis, and as these are perfectly hardy, we can expect to find a lot more of them in ornamental plantings henceforth.

We find a creeping juniper growing wild in the Hills. These are very pretty for ground covering, as they cling to the ground entirely and make a solid mat. In many places they use these for covering graves and there are many other places in landscape plantings where they can be used to good advantage.

There are many other varieties of evergreens that are worthy of mention that are not natives of our state and the best of all ornamental evergreens would be Colorado Blue Spruce. These are used very extensively all over the United States at the present time and there really are some wonderful specimens among them. They seem to be adapted to all parts of the country.

In the ornamental plantation, the Douglas Spruce should not be forgotten. They are also very wonderful specimens, but care should be exercised that we get spruce from seed grown on this side of the mountains. The Douglas Spruce or fir, as I understand it, is the tree from which our western fir lumber is sawed. These make some wonderful specimens and they are very graceful and well proportioned.

The Concolor Fir, which is a native of Colorado, is not nearly as hardy as the Colorado Blue Spruce. However, the Concolor is a very beautiful specimen and can be grown here, especially if planted in a somewhat protected place.

There are many other varieties of evergreens that can be used in ornamental plantations which are perfectly hardy, but I will just mention the Dwarf Mountain Pine or Pinus Mugho, which are entirely hardy, and hold their dark green color all the year around. These, of course, have their place in every ornamental plantation.

I believe I will not mention any of the other varieties of evergrens as this list for our locality, you will find, is very satisfactory, although it is not complete. There are many other varieties of evergreens, some of which are only half hardy, but would stand if planted in protected places.

STREET TREE PLANTING

E. Webb, Mitchell, S. D.

Implanted in the hearts and minds of a majority of our citizens is a love of beauty, a need for shade, a desire to improve the appearance of our surroundings and even in some cases the knowledge of the increased values in dollars and cents that such improvements can bring to our property. It is also true that most of us have our own ideas and individual plans as to how this may best be done, and as to what is most pleasing to ourselves. It is well that this is so in most respects, otherwise our yards and gardens would have a monotonous sameness of design, planting and color that would detract from the pleasure we now obtain in working out, each for himself, our own ideas of beauty. In one instance, however, this individualistic tendency operates not only against the appearance of our own properties but against the best appearance of our cities as a whole. This instance is in the case of shade trees planted in the parkings along our streets.

Most of us have seen and admired in certain cities throughout the country, or at least in pictures, streets lined with magnificent specimens of trees of a uniform kind, height and spacing. Such a vision long remains a pleasant memory and causes most of us to try to reproduce this effect in front of our own homes. It is at this point that our individual ideas come in to spoil the effect that we are attempting to create. One man remembers the long rows of beautiful elms in some New England town; his neighbor has visions of the shadowy aisles beneath a street lined with majestic, old, soft maples; across the street lives one who thinks back to the time when he played beneath an oak; next door is one who loves the autumn colors of the Norways or hard maples; still another prefers the evergreens, and another who originally came from a dryer region thinks only of cottonwoods. Each plants the tree or trees of his choice according to his own ideas of spacing, and the net result is not beauty but rather chaos and lack of uniformity where uniformity itself brings beauty. Each is envisioning only his own place, not realizing that it will be swallowed up and lost to view by the sight of the street as a whole. Imagine for a moment that you are turning a corner into some residential street. If that street is lined with trees of one kind, uniformly spaced to allow each tree to fully develop in its required amount of sunlight, do you notice if each lot has the same number of trees as the one next to it, if in front of this house a tree has been planted just so many feet each side of the service walk or from the property line? You do not. The individual lot is lost sight of in the realization that here is a beautiful avenue of trees that sets off each home far more effectively than any other means could do.

From this point on the plantings should be expressive of our individual tastes. Different homes require different treatments in planting in order to bring out the best effects. A variety in the use of shrubs for base plantings and in flowers for borders is highly desirable. If one has a desire to plant a certain kind of tree by all means do so, but plant it in the back yard or close to the house in front where it will not interfere with the growth or spoil the effect of the parking trees.

It is not the purpose of this article to specify what trees should be used for parking plantings. Too many conditions enter into the selection of a proper variety, such as the width of the street itself, the class of buildings on that street, atmospheric conditions as to smoke or gas, the width of the planting or parking strip, etc. The conditions of soil and moisture also vary so greatly within this state that some trees that might

be excellent for one locality, would be impossible to grow in another. Such things can be easily determined, however. The real problem is to obtain uniformity, and by uniformity is not necessarily meant the use of only one kind of tree for the entire city or even for the entire length of a street. Because of a change in soil conditions, in the class of dwellings, or perhaps in the width of the street itself, it might often become desirable to change the variety of the trees along some streets. This should only be done, however, at that place on the street where the change is not conspicious as at some intersecting street or at a point where the street turns, widens or narrows. In general the planting should be uniform over as much of the length of any street as possible and this same variety kept in definite, blocked out areas in the city itself.

The best solution for this problem of uniform planting is of course through the designation of some department of the city government to take charge of this work and then to furnish them with the funds needed to plant, trim, repair or remove all trees in the parkings. This system is being followed in many cities through their park or city forestry departments and this system insures of the quickest results. It is, however, possible to secure much the same results in a longer period of time without what might be considered the burden of additional taxation. All that would be necessary would be the appointment of a street tree commission invested with the control of all future plantings, removals, trimmings, etc., of the trees along the parkings. Such a commission should determine what species of trees were best suited to the needs and conditions of its own town, decide upon the kind best suited for any street, and through the use of a permit system allow only that kind of tree to be planted and then only in its proper location. Gradually over a period of years all undesirable species would become eliminated even from the older portions of the town and eventually a uniform planting would result. In the case of newer sections of the city, results would be seen much more quickly. Such a system removes all personal choice in the matter of selection of street trees, but in the benefits derived, not only to the whole community but to each property owner, the end justifies the means.

The writer has had too much experience in street tree work to believe that such a program can be adopted in any community without considerable opposition. Such opposition, however, is usually based upon lack of knowledge of the results that are being striven for. In such cases an intelligent explanation is usually all that is necessary. Others will oppose such a plan with the arguments that they will not live to obtain the benefits of which you speak or else they desire to plant whatever they choose in an attempt to obtain the quickest results. Arguments and education are usually of little avail against such people and the adoption of this or any plan of civic improvement depends mainly upon which class of citizen is in the majority. There is no denying the fact that the results of such a plan are slow in appearing. It is also self evident that without a plan of some kind the present condition merely perpetuates itself. Our towns and cities are very young. Why should we not start now to plan for their appearance fifty or a hundred years from now? Why not insure to our children and to the children of generations to come that love for their birthplaces and that appreciation of beauty and order that is bred into those who grow up in pleasant surroundings beneath beautiful, if I want to."

Our friend Betty Bee in the American Bee Journal said: "I have a garden and it is mine; a place where I can plant cabbages between pansies, if I want to."

THE IRIS—OUR HARDIEST PERENNIAL

Thos. F. Stecher, Howard, S. D.

Some of the past dry years have been a sore spot for the lovers of flowers and many were discouraged by the poor results that were obtained by much labor. In a country like ours, it would not be amiss to plant such varieties of flowers that give their floral display either in early or late spring, because our ground is in the best condition to rely upon almost every year. Of these we have quite a number—the tulips, the peonies, even the hardy roses and others which repay our trouble by giving them winter protection. There is one variety which has not been appreciated by many, who have only seen the common and perhaps only one variety in color of our German iris.

Iris is very easily grown and is well adapted to our avided northern climate. They are by far the most numerous of all hardy perennials. The iris is a boon for an immense region even where other flowers cannot be grown for the iris will endure more heat and drouth than any flowers. We find them in our own state, in Canada, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and in California without irrigation, gathering strength from the winter rains and snow for spring flowering. They will stand even the severe cold of our climate with but a little protection. But they cannot endure much wet, nor a heavy clay soil, otherwise they will rot.

The iris is of a numerous family continuing long in bloom, with varieties of indescribable beauty and such vast fields of new varieties. C. S. Harrison, the author of the "Manual on Iris," says: "Though I am nearly 85 years old, I have prayed that my life may be extended till I could introduce this wonderful and charming family to the world as the coming flower."

Bertrand Farr of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, was enthusiastic about the iris. He said, "Really, I do not know why the iris became my hobby." He introduced many fine speciments of iris. It must be the refined and delicate beauty of the iris that is hidden from the observer whose fancy is caught by only the more gorgeous and striking things and only to those who seeking closer acquaintance, gaze down into the heart of the flower, is revealed the rare beauty of its soft iridescence.

The iris is the poor man's orchard, which needs not the tropical heat nor the moisture of the air to produce the rich delicate costly flower. Certainly we have the winsome loveliness of the rose, the majestic peonies, but the iris among its neighboring flowers, with its tints and shades of the ethereal clouds, they are prophetic of the glory of God. If you yield to the magic spell of the iris, it will lead you across the border into a wonderland of delight, for an iris garden is a floral world in itself so vast that to mention all the interesting forms would be impossible, as there are about one hundred and seventy distinct species and varieties innumerable.

The iris hardly ever fails to convince us of her beauty year after year in our northern climate. Often we have our so-called common blue flags blooming on an Easter morning as the harbinger of the beauties of her family. It is not to be wondered why they have given it the name of the Goddess Iris, personifying the rainbow, combining the beauty of heaven and earth in their matchless robes. It would as if she gathered the glory of the sunsets, the beauty of sun mantles, the tinting and coloring and the shading which play on mountain and plain, and wove them all in those opaline and iridescent robes with which she has adorned her children. The marvelous veining and tracery and the delicate intermingling of colors give them a charm no other flowers possess. Many of them have a delicious fragrance. Some have a charming reflex like the richest silk

which give them a resistless fascination. In fact when you take a mass of them of a hundred kinds and see them all on dress parade, each vieing with the other to see which can put on the most radiant appearance, they seem almost human in their efforts to dazzle and attract. But they have this advantage: No gathering of royalty, no efforts of the select nor of the elaborate trousseaus can compare with the skill and high art of the great florists as they adorned this brilliant host to charm the eye and feed the soul. All the rays and tints and colors of the rainbow are here the concentrated beauty of the cloud and earth united and blended in a harmonious whole.

They belong to the northern hemisphere. You find them in Russia, Siberia, in the Himalay Mountains, in France, Germany, England and with numerous sorts growing wild in North America. But with all its species and varieties the iris has not received as much attention at others.

A new iris and cheering results have been secured by Sir Michael Foster of England. He has been an enthusiast with this flower and has produced some fine crosses. Mr. C. G. Van Tubergen of Holland has also had splendid success. W. J. Carparne of the Isle of Guernsey has had an encouraging result in hybridizing the early Alpine dwarfs with later and stronger varieties. In our own country we are not lacking in men enthusiastic about giving us beautiful results.

They are not hard to raise. They enjoy a quiet place and plenty of sunshine to give a satisfactory result and some protection of the wind and storm. The little bud or root for which we pay 25 cents or one dollar or more will soon multiply and increase to fill up the gaps between them.

I will not discuss the grouping of colors regarding effect for a pleasing view, for everyone has his own taste. The large in the back, the smaller in growth in the front.

Plant the iris in somewhat light soil with good drainage and cover them with an inch of soil and with distance to expand. Hot dry summers would suggest two things: A check in growth after flowering which means rest, and a thorough drying and baking of the rhizomes, by which name the fleshy part of the iris root is known. The drying and baking seem to have the effect of recharging the roots with new energy. Therefore do not water them during summer time.

There is also some satisfaction in raising iris from seed. It takes three years before they bloom, but if you sow some seed every year you will always have, if not new varieties, at least some improvement of the mother plant in color or better developed flower. Those that do not show some improvement, throw away. It is interesting to watch their development. Pick off the seed pods as soon as they are ripe and leave the seed in their pods to dry, but do not put the seed in a closed can or box. In the fall plant the seed and cover it with one-half an inch of light soil and some dry leaves for some protection. When they sprout in spring and they are not too close or not in your way, let them grow until August and then transplant them to a permanent place. Cover the small plants with leaves for winter protection.

Iris can also be forced in the house during winter. Take up some strong clumps, not too large, of some two or three plants, but leave the earth on them. Take them up just before the ground freezes and put them in large pots and place them in a cool cellar. It will not hurt them to freeze, but if they are frozen, thaw them out gradually. Then bring them up to the light and put them in the south window. Keep them cool and moist and you can have flowers through February and March. Grown in the house, they will be more beautiful and delicate and sheltered from the weather, they will continue longer in bloom than those out of doors.

NATIVE FENCE POSTS

Anson L. Crawford, Brookings, S. D.

The question has sometimes been discussed at horticultural meetings and frequently in various farm papers regarding our native trees for lasting fence posts. The answer usually given is: That they are no good, and that the seasoning or peeling of them before setting is not of enough advantage to be worthwhile.

Now my experience has been just the opposite. I find that if our native ash, elm, black (or broad leaved) willow or even box elder are cut any time in the winter and the bark peeled off the following June, then stand them up and allow to season in the sunlight for one or better two years before setting, they will make posts as strong and durable as the commercial cedar posts we buy. Either the ax-split ones of the northwest or the round or sawed ones from Minnesota or Wisconsin. Of course they will not be as straight or nice to handle as the cedar, and it is harder to drive the staples into them but they have the durability and strength of any northern cedar.

I had an ash, about eight inches in diameter, that was cut in February, 1881, bark taken off in May or June (whenever it is loosened up) and set for a hitching post late in 1882. It was taken up in 1886 and lay around a few years and was reset in the spring of 1889, where it has stood ever since. The post rotted off at the bottom of her nest, but in September, 1925, there was over a foot of it still standing and was too firm to be broken off with a twelve-pound stone hammer. That makes nearly thirty-five years in the ground and it is still fairly strong yet.

During the winter about twenty-two years ago I cut a lot of black willows along the river. Some of them I set for posts that same spring, with the bark on and unseasoned. Most of them lasted less than two and none of them over four years and were a complete loss. The part above the ground being as rotten as that below. No good even for firewood.

The ones that I did not set at that time I peeled and cured one or two years and when I set them they lasted an average of about ten years. And the tops were then fair fuel. One of them in particular I set for a clothes line post the second spring and it in time rotted off at the top of the ground and I reset it again. Last summer it broke off the second time. There was twenty years' use of a six-inch black willow pole in one of the most severe tests a post often gets.

I have had elm last ten to fifteen years and box elder nearly ten years. So if you can afford to see a fence made with posts with crooks and knots, do not be afraid of our native stuff. Only you must peel and dry it before setting. The bark always comes off easily in May or June.

I have not mentioned the red or diamond willow as all agree that it is durable. I am not ready to recommend cottonwood even if seasoned. Perhaps from certain trees and in favored locations it might do, but it never lasts for me.

CONTEST FOR BEE CLUB MEMBERS

The Editor will give the following prizes to Bee Club members:

First Prize—One complete ten frame standard hive.

Second Prize—One two-pound package of bees.

The contest closes October 1, 1929. The first prize will be given to the member sending in the best essay on Bee Club work. Choose your own subject. The thought contained in the essay will be given more weight than the composition. The second prize will be given to the member securing the largest number of pounds of honey from one colony.

Will the losers get stung? Let us hope not.

It is possible new refrigeration methods for handling fruit will be in use in a few years. Tests in New Jersey show that where the air which contains oxygen is replaced by pure nitrogen by using tight containers fruit will keep a much longer time without spoiling.—News Letter, North Dakota State Horticultural Society.

Jerusalem Artichokes are being used for the production of levulose, a sugar sweeter than ordinary sugar. This sugar is prescribed by physicians for use by diabetics. Perhaps this troublesome weed will become a valuable cultivated plant.—News Letter, North Dakota State Horticultural Society.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

If you are interested in fruits, flowers or vegetables, you are cordially invited to become a member of the State Horticultural Society. Memberships are of two kinds, annual and life, the cost of which is one dollar per year for the annual, and $10.00 for the life membership.

Each annual member is entitled to select one of the plant premiums listed on this page, and the dollar paid for the year's membership includes fifty cents, for the year's subscription to the magazine.

New life members may select ten of the premiums and all life members whose membership is received after March 1st, 1929 will receive the magazine regularly for the period of their life.

PLANT PREMIUMS FOR 1929

Order by number and give first and second choice.

No. 24. Gladiolus, 16 bulbs.
No. 25. Peony, Red, one root.
No. 26. Peony, Pink, one root.
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No. 42. Regale Lily, 3 bulbs.
No. 43. One back report.
No. 28. Hilium Elegans, Red, one bulb

Tear off coupon and mail with $1.00 to R. W. Vance, Sec., Pierre, So. Dak.

Please enter my name as a member of the South Dakota Horticultural Society for the year 1929 and place my name on the subscription list to receive your monthly magazine regularly. Of the $1.00 enclosed, 50 cents is for a year's subscription to the "South Dakota Horticulturist."

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